

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9724

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UN, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB)
RESOLUTION

1. DURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN MISOFF (MOTT) AND US DELOFF (NEIDLE), MOTT DESCRIBED PRESENT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS ON CTB RES AND EXPLAINED AUSTRALIAN THINKING. HE ASKED THAT INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD AND THAT HE BE PROTECTED AS SOURCE SINCE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CANADA, JAPAN, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, AND POSSIBLY MEXICO, WERE AT VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE.

2. ACCORDING TO MOTT, CANADIANS HAVE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA A DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH SWEDES AND JAPANESE, AND POSSIBLY MEXICANS. AUSTRALIANS ALSO HAVE THIS DRAFT, BUT MOTT DID NOT WISH TO PROVIDE IT TO US AT THIS STAGE, EVEN PRIVATELY, SINCE AUSTRALIANS HAVE NOT YET
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GIVEN THEIR REACTIONS TO CANADIANS. PURPOSE OF EFFORT IS

TO DEVELOP ONE SINGLE DRAFT, AS OPPOSED TO HAVING THREE CTB RESES AS LAST YEAR, WHICH WOULD COVER CONCERNS OF ALL MAJOR GROUPS INTERESTED IN CTB QUESTION. DRAFT WOULD EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED ATMOSPHERIC TESTING, WHICH WAS MATTER OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO PACIFIC STATES, AS WELL AS PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS FOR CTB NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS MATTER CANADIANS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN.

3. MOTT EXPLAINED THAT QUESTION OF HOW TO FORMULATE THIS YEAR'S RES WAS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE FOR AUSTRALIA AS A RESULT OF CHANGE OF GOVT, AND BECAUSE AUSTRALIANS, WHILE DESIRING TO HAVE SLIGHTLY STRONGER RES THAN LAST YEAR, DID NOT WANT, AS A RESULT OF ITS BEING STRONGER, TO WIND UP WITH SMALLER VOTE IN ITS FAVOR THAN THEY ATTAINED LAST YEAR. HE SAID AUSTRALIANS MIGHT ALSO WISH TO INCLUDE SOME APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE REGARDING ATMOSPHERIC TESTING; HOWEVER, THIS ELEMENT ALSO MIGHT ADD TO DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING VERY LARGE VOTE FOR RES.

4. US DELOFF REMINDED MOTT THAT EARLY AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIAN DELS LAST YEAR HAD CLEARLY BEEN FACTOR IN ARRIVING AT RESULT WHICH PERMITTED US TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND RES. HE HOPED THERE COULD BE SIMILAR COOPERATION THIS YEAR BECAUSE WE CERTAINLY WOULD PREFER TO SEE MODERATE CTB RES PUT FORWARD WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT. MOTT SAID HE AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF HAVING RES WHICH US, AS WELL AS USSR, COULD SUPPORT AND HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO KEEP US INFORMED AND TO KEEP TERMS OF RES MODERATE.

5. US DELOFF REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS SOME OF KEY ELEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE TO US, NAMELY, THAT WE COULD NATURALLY NOT BE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR ANY RES WHICH CRITICIZED US AS ONE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE TO MAKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARD CTB; AND ALSO AUSTRALIANS SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO ATTEMPT "CONDEMNATION" OF SOME COUNTRIES FOR ATMOSPHERIC TESTING SINCE THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS

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FOR ALLIES OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE TESTING POWERS. MOTT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THESE CONCERNS BUT FEARED THAT SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS MEXICO, MIGHT WELL TRY TO ASSIGN BLAME FOR STAGNATION OF CTB NEGOTIATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT SITUATION IS NOT EASY ONE BECAUSE CCD'S REPORT DID NOT OFFER MUCH HOPE FOR CTB PROGRESS IN NEAR FUTURE. DELOFF REVIEWED SERIOUS TECHNICAL WORK WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE ON CTB ISSUES AT CCD AND EXPLAINED THAT CTB WAS

NOT SORT OF MATTER THAT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS REQUIRING
IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION. MOTT SAID THAT PERHAPS NEXT WEEK
HE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO SHARE WITH US DETAILS OF
CTB RES DISCUSSIONS, ON MOST CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.
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